November 17, 2026 - Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Board Room

Page

1. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. INVOCATION

Pastor Derrell Brame with Central Christian Church will offer the invocation.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Granite City Board of Education welcomes visitors – including employees, students, parents and other citizens – to its regular meetings. To accommodate the public, certain rules have been established. Any person wishing to give Public Comment(s) during a regular or special Board of Education meeting is encouraged to register with the Superintendent's Office prior to the meeting. Any person may comment to the School Board (public participation), subject to the reasonable constraints established and recorded in the guidelines below. During public participation, there will be a 20 minute minimum total length of time for any one subject. When public participation takes less time than these minimums, it shall end. To preserve sufficient time for the Board to conduct its business, any person appearing before the Board is expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board President.
2. Identify oneself and be brief. Ordinarily, the time for any one person to address the Board during public participation shall be limited to five minutes.
3. Observe, when necessary and appropriate, the Shortening of the time for each person to address the Board during public participation to conserve time and give the maximum number of people an opportunity to speak;
4. Conduct oneself with respect and civility toward others. Petitions or written correspondence to the Board shall be presented to the Board in the next regular Board packet.
5. To maintain confidentiality, the BOE asks that any matters concerning personnel or students be communicated to the BOE privately.

The public should not expect a Board response during Public Comment. There may be discussion by the Board concerning Public Comment when the issue is addressed on the agenda.

Please send any public comment requests/statements to any of the following individuals by 12PM on **November 12, 2026**:

Donald J. Harris, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; superintendent.office@gcsd9.net
Eric Stacy, President, Board of Education; eric.stacy@gcsd9.net
Carrie Wallace, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent; carrie.wallace@gcsd9.net

5. MINUTES

5.1 Approval of the October 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

(The Consent Agenda contains those items that are repetitive and routine in nature. Any member may make a motion to approve the Consent Agenda or request that any of the items be moved to Section VII for individual discussion and consideration.)

Consent Agenda items are listed below and on the GCSD9 website.

6.1 Bill List
October 17, 2026 - November 11, 2026
{available upon request}

6.2 Approval of Paid and Unpaid Leaves

6.3 FOIA Requests 5
We received three requests under the Freedom of Information Act during the period October 20, 2026 through November 9, 2026.

FOIA REQUEST - Nov 17. 26.pdf

6.4 Actions of the Region 1 Board - Watkins
The Region I administration is requesting Ratification of the following Actions of the Region I Board from their meeting held on November 4, 2026.
RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS- PERSONNEL
Contractual Occupational Therapy services with lntegra Therapy Services

NEW BUSINESS
Approval of the Madison County Region I Audit

6.5 Donations

United States Steel Corporation - GCHS Boys Basketball Program
Relleke Farms - GCHS and CJHS

7. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 **Employments - GARRETT**

Employments,
2026-2027 Extracurricular assignments,
Certified and Classified Substitutes.

pending completion of required paperwork, background check and verification of previous employment

9.2 **TAX LEVY RESOLUTION FOR THE 2026 TAXES COLLECTED IN 2027 - SUHRE** 7

The Board of Education needs to:

1. Adopt a Tax Levy Resolution for the 2026 Taxes (Collected in 2027). The proposed Resolution is computed on a 9% increase in Assessed Evaluation. This would result in a tax rate of $3.7531 which would be .1994 less than last year $3.9525.
2. Authorize Publication of a Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for the Granite City CUSD #9 and Truth in Taxation Certificate. Copies attached. These are required anytime you exceed 5%.
3. To set December 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room as the time and place for the Public Hearing on the 2026 Levy.

2026 Tax Levy November .pdf

9.3 **6th Hour Assignment Spring Semester 2027 - KEEL**

Permission is requested to approve the following 6th Hour Assignment for the Spring Semester at Lake School. This assignment allows us to offer a Work Co-op class to high school students who are able to work.

Teacher - Candice Parker

Approval is recommended.

9.4 **GCHS – EF EDUCATIONAL TOURS 2027 - KEEL** 11

Permission is requested to allow Hannah Fishburn to distribute EF travel information at Granite City High School to students and parents regarding a tour in 2027 through EF Educational Groups to Italy and Greece. Please see the below parent letter for more detailed information. The first parent meeting will be on

November 18, 2026.

Rome Athens Greek Isles itin 2027.pdf

Hannah Fishburn Tour Overview GCHS 2027 tour.pdf

Approval is recommended

10. REPORTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

1. GCHS Guiding Coalition - Presentation

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Exceptions noted under 5 ILCS 120/2 Open Meetings:
- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; 2(c)(1)
- Student disciplinary matters; 2(c)(9)
- The purchase or lease of real property for use by the public body; or setting price thereof; 2(c)(5)(6)
- Collective bargaining matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives; and 2(c)(2)
- Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed…is probable or imminent; 2(c)(11)
- To discuss school building safety and security and security procedures. 2(c)(8); and
- Student Safety; 2(c)(8)

EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES;

Approval of the Executive Session minutes from October 27, 2026.

13. SETTING OF THE AGENDA

December 8, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

FOIA REQUESTS - 2027

REQUESTOR	COMPANY	DATE REQUESTED	DATE RESPONDED
William Ivy	N/A	11/1/2026	11/4/2026
Sheri Reid	SmartProcure	10/23/2026	10/23/2026
Chod Grenawalt	N/A	10/22/2026	10/28/2026
William Ivy	N/A	10/22/2026	10/28/2026
Abbas Khan	N/A	10/16/2026	10/16/2026
Mark Johnson	N/A	10/15/2026	10/16/2026
Courtney D Andrews-Boyd	N/A	10/5/2026	10/8/2026
Colton Pierce	Data Branch Research Team	10/1/2026	10/2/2026
Courtney D Andrews-Boyd	N/A	9/28/2026	10/2/2026
David Huniak	N/A	9/23/2026	9/30/2026
Christian Galo	Govly	9/23/2026	9/24/2026
David Huniak	N/A	9/21/2026	9/23/2026
Catarina Mascarenhas	Prairie State Wire	9/21/2026	9/23/2026
Oshea Smith	Sunlight Access	9/18/2026	9/19/2026
Jomar Genite	SmartProcure	9/14/2026	9/16/2026
Sheri Reid	SmartProcure	9/11/2026	9/16/2026
Justin Wenig	Star Bridge	9/11/2026	9/16/2026
Jordan Reese	N/A	9/9/2026	9/16/2026
CT Mills	Public Info Access LLC	9/2/2026	9/2/2026
Steve Knogl	GCSD9	8/28/2026	8/31/2026
Dustin Grice	IBEW Local 309	8/28/2026	9/8/2026
Catarina Mascarenhas	Lake County Gazette	8/28/2026	8/31/2026
Autumn Hayes	Data Branch Research Team	8/13/2026	8/14/1026
Holly Sinclair	Data Branch Research Team	8/10/2026	n/a
Lydia Carmichael	Data Branch Research Team	8/7/2026	n/a
Colton Pierce	Data Branch Research Team	8/4/2026	n/a

Joe Pavia	N/A	8/1/2026	8/7/2026
Joe Pavia	N/A	7/27/2026	7/31/2026
Erin Whitfield	Data Branch Research Team	7/20/2026	7/23/2026
Claire Brooks	Data Branch Research Team	7/18/2026	7/20/2026
Rebecca White	Data Branch Research Team	7/13/2026	7/17/2026
Bryann Calloway	Data Branch Research Team	7/10/2026	7/15/2026
Matthew Woods	KMOV Channel 4	7/9/2026	7/13/2026
Georgia Simmons	Data Branch Research Team	7/8/2026	7/15/2026
Bridget Nolan	Data Branch Research Team	7/5/2026	7/13/2026
Annabelle Foster	Data Branch Research Team	7/2/2026	7/7/2026
Evan Granger	Data Branch Research Team	6/29/2026	7/6/2026
Chris Stanley	Data Branch Research Team	6/25/2026	6/25/2026
Hannah Wright	Data Branch Research Team	6/19/2026	6/23/2026
Luke Donovan	Data Branch Research Team	6/19/2026	6/23/2026
Marissa Keegan	Data Branch Research Team	6/19/2026	6/23/2026
Remy Evans	Data Branch Research Team	6/19/2026	6/23/2026
Blair Kensington	Data Branch Research Team	6/18/2026	6/23/2026
Catarina Mascarenhas	Judiciocracy LLC	6/17/2026	6/24/2026

TO: DR. DON HARRIS, SUPERINTENDENT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: ZACK SUHRE, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
RE: **TAX LEVY RESOLUTION FOR THE 2026 TAXES COLLECTED IN 2027**
DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2026

The Board of Education needs to:

1. Adopt a Tax Levy Resolution for the **2026** Taxes (**Collected in 2027)**. The proposed Resolution is computed on a 9% increase in Assessed Evaluation. This would result in a tax rate of **$3.7531** which would be **.1994** less than last year's $3.9525.

2. Authorize Publication of a Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for the Granite City CUSD #9 and Truth in Taxation Certificate. Copies attached. These are required anytime you exceed 5%.

3. To set **December 8, 2026** at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room as the time and place for the Public Hearing on the **2026** Levy.

RESOLUTION REGARDING ESTIMATED AMOUNTS
NECESSARY TO BE LEVIED FOR THE TAX YEAR **2026**

WHEREAS, the Truth in Taxation Act requires that all taxing districts in the State of Illinois determine the estimated amount of taxes necessary to be levied for the year prior to the official adoption for the aggregate tax levy of the District; and

WHEREAS, if the estimated aggregate amount necessary to be levied, exclusive of election costs and bond and interest costs, exceeds one-hundred and five percent **(105%)** of the aggregate amounts of property taxes extended or estimated to be extended, including any amount abated by the taxing district prior to such extension, upon the levy of the preceding year, public notice shall be given and a public hearing shall be held on the District's intent to adopt a tax levy in an amount which is more than one-hundred and five percent **(105%)** if such extension or estimated extension for the preceding year; and

WHEREAS, the aggregate amount of property taxes extended for 2025 was:

FUND	2025 ACTUAL EXTENSION
Educational	$26,528,870.76
Operations & Maint.	$5,201,739.37
Transportation	$2,080,695.75
Fire Prevention & Safety	$520,173.94
Special Education	$416,139.15
Working Cash	$520,173.94
IMRF	$600,280.72
Social Security/Medicare	$1,450,244.93
Liability/Tort	$1,250,498.14
Lease	$520,173.94
SUBTOTALS	$39,088,990.64
Debt Service	$2,030,759.05
TOTALS	$41,119,749.69

WHEREAS, it is hereby determined that the estimated amount of taxes necessary to be raised by taxation for the year 2026 is as follows:

FUND	2026 ESTIMATED EXTENSION
Educational	$27,000,000
Operations & Maint.	$5,300,000
Transportation	$2,120,000
Fire Prevention & Safety	$530,000
Special Education	$425,000
Working Cash	$530,000
IMRF	$600,000
Social Security/Medicare	$1,450,000
Liability/Tort	$1,250,000
Lease	$530,000
SUBTOTALS	$39,735,000
Bond & Interest	$2,020,201
TOTALS	$41,755,201

WHEREAS, the Truth in Taxation Act, as amended, requires that all taxing districts in the State of Illinois provide data in the Notice concerning the levies made for debt service made pursuant to statute, referendum, resolution on agreement to retire principal or pay interest on bonds, notes, and debentures or other financial instruments which evidence indebtedness; and

WHEREAS, the aggregate amount of property taxes extended for the bond and interest purposes for **2025** was **2,030,759.05** and it is hereby determined that the estimated amount of taxes to be levied for bond and interest purposes for **2026** is **$2,020,533**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education, Community Unit School District No. 9, County of Madison, State of Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1: The aggregate amount of taxes estimated to be levied for the **2026** year is **$42,986,000.**

SECTION 2: The aggregate amount of taxes estimated to be levied for the year **2026** exceeds one hundred and five (105%) of the taxes extended by the District in the year **2025** and is, in fact, **109.97%** of such extension for the previous year.

SECTION 3: The aggregate amount of taxes estimated to be levied for the year **2026** for debt service is **99.50%** of the taxes extended for the debt service for **2025**.

SECTION 4: Public Notice is required as the **2026** estimated total aggregate amount to be levied exceeds 105% and is, in fact, **109.45%** of such extension for the previous year.

SECTION 5: This Resolution shall be in force and effect forthwith upon its passage.

ADOPTED this November 17, 2026.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 9
COUNTY OF MADISON
STATE OF ILLINOIS

By: _____
President, Board of Education

ATTEST:

_____
Secretary, Board of Education

Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for
Granite City CUSD #9

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for **Granite City CUSD #9** for **2026** will be held on **December 8, 2026** at **6:00 p.m.** at the **Board of Education Office, 3200 Maryville Road, Granite City, Illinois.**

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact **Dr. Donald Harris, Superintendent, 3200 Maryville Road, Granite City, Illinois, 618-451-5800.**

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for **2025** were **39,088,991**

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for **2026** are **$42,986,000**. This represents a **9.97%** increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for **2025** were **$2,030,759**

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for **2026** are **$2,020,533**. This represents a **.50%** decrease over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for **2025** were $**41,119,750**

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for **2026** are **$45,006,533**. This represents an 9.45% increase over the previous year.

EDUCATIONAL TOURS



Rome, Athens & the Greek Isles (Santorini & Crete)

12 Days

The experience of a lifetime is waiting for you. Every detail from the cities you'll stay in to the cultural discoveries you'll make have been customized by your teacher for your group. Take a look at your personal itinerary for a sneak peek of what's in store.

Included on tour

Round-trip flights on major carriers; full-time Tour Director; project-based learning program, EF's personalized learning experience; hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily unless otherwise specified. Lunch on day 10.

Sightseeing: Rome; Food walking tour, Rome; Pompeii; Athens; Akrotiri Archaeological Site; Knossos Palace; Spinalonga Island; Delphi

Entrances: Food walking tour, Rome; Pompeii Roman ruins; Acropolis; Acropolis Museum; Akrotiri Archaeological Site; Knossos Palace; Boat to Spinalonga Island; Delphi Site & Archaeological Museum

Overnights: Rome (3); Athens (2); Santorini (2); Heraklion(1); Night ferry Heraklion-Athens (1); Athens (1)





Your Itinerary

Day 1: Fly overnight to Italy

Board your overnight flight to Rome!

Day 2: Rome

Arrive in Rome
Welcome to Rome, the Eternal City. The city is an incredible mix of archaeological gems, Roman genius, Renaissance art, and religious treasure.

Day 3: Rome

Guided sightseeing of Rome
Explore Rome's iconic sites with an expert local guide. Enjoy views of the Colosseum and Roman Forum, followed by sweeping panoramas from the top of Capitoline Hill. Visit St. Peter's Square and take in the stunning facade of St. Peter's Basilica from the outside.

Guided food walking tour of Rome
Embark on a guided food walking tour, where you'll discover Italian cuisine and enjoy lunch or dinner while strolling through Rome's historic streets.

Day 4: Rome • Pompeii

Guided excursion to Pompeii
Learn how wealthy Romans lived 2,000 years ago on a visit to Pompeii, one of the richest and most well-known archaeological sites in the world. Situated along the breezy Bay of Naples, the neighboring Mt. Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79 and close to 20 feet of volcanic ash, pumice, and debris completely buried the Roman resort and the surrounding area. The ash preserved the town as a snapshot in time, and protected it from deterioration in many forms, including weather and vandalism. Now, fully excavated, you can see the ruins of family villas, ancient temples, mosaics, roads, and bathhouses.

Day 5: Rome • Athens

Fly to Athens
Welcome to Athens, the Cradle of Democracy and birthplace of Western civilization. A modern city with a strong connection to its ancient history, Athens has been a center of culture, politics, and history for thousands of years.

Day 6: Athens

Guided sightseeing of Athens
An expert local guide introduces you to the antiquities of Athens. Partially on your coach bus and partially on foot, get to know this ancient city named after Athena, goddess of war and wisdom. Climb up to the Acropolis to view the majestic Parthenon, an impressive architectural feat and symbol of western civilization. See the Temple of Athena Nike, which once housed a gold statue of the goddess with her wings clipped to keep her from ever deserting the city. After descending from the "sacred rock" be sure to check out the marble filled Panathenaic Stadium, which held the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. Finally, visit the Acropolis Museum on your own, which houses nearly 4,000 artifacts from the Acropolis and surrounding site.

Walking tour of Athens
Get to know Athens during your Tour Director-led walking tour. Together you might stroll through the Plaka district or Monastiraki.

Day 7: Athens • Santorini

Fly to Santorini
With multicolored cliffs soaring above a sea-drowned caldera, Santorini looks like a giant slab of layered cake. The main island of Thira will take your breath away with its white Cycladic houses lining the cliff tops and, in places, spilling down the terraced rock. When the sunsets, the reflection on the buildings and the glow of the orange and red in the cliffs can be truly spectacular.

Walking tour of Perissa
Enjoy a walking tour of Perissa, a coastal village known for its striking black sand beach and the nearby ruins of the ancient Basilica of Saint Irene, the namesake behind Santorini. Your Tour Director will lead you along the main street, where the beach sits on one side and inviting tavernas line the other. It's the perfect place to unwind, swim, or enjoy a laid-back lunch by the sea.

Walking tour of Pyrgos
Explore Pyrgos, a charming Santorini village known for its whitewashed houses, narrow winding streets, and quiet beauty reminiscent of Oia, just without the crowds. As you stroll through the hillside pathways and blue-domed corners, your Tour Director will lead the way and share local insights. Enjoy a relaxed walk that highlights the village's atmosphere, views, and authentic island character.

Walking tour of Oia
Spend time exploring Oia, Santorini's most iconic cliffside village, known for its whitewashed homes, blue domed churches, and winding marble pathways. Wander at your own pace through its boutiques, cafés, and lookout points as you take in the breathtaking caldera views. As evening approaches, find the perfect spot to watch Oia's famous sunset, an unforgettable moment that fills the village with golden light.

Day 8: Santorini

Guided visit of the Akrotiri archaeological site
Uncover Akrotiri, a Bronze Age settlement that was buried and remarkably preserved by a massive volcanic eruption in the sixteenth century BC. As you walk through the archaeological site, a local guide will lead you past ancient streets, preserved frescoes, and everyday objects that reveal the sophistication of Minoan life. Learn how the eruption shaped the island's history while discovering one of the most fascinating archaeological treasures in the Aegean.

Exploration time in Fira
Enjoy time to explore Fira, the lively capital of Santorini, where stunning caldera views meet a maze of whitewashed lanes filled with shops, cafés, and local boutiques. You may choose to wander at your own pace, browse for souvenirs, or sample local treats.

Day 9: Santorini • Heraklion

Exploration time in Santorini
This morning is yours to enjoy additional time to explore Santorini.

Travel by ferry or hydrofoil to Heraklion
Welcome to Heraklion, the largest city in Crete and the 4th largest city in Greece.

Your Itinerary

Day 10: Heraklion • Elounda • Spinalonga • Night ferry

Guided visit of Knossos Palace
Situated in what was once the capital of Minoan Crete, the first Palace of Knossos was built around 2000 B.C. Beginning with excavations in 1900 AD, British archaeologist Arthur Evans headed up the reconstruction of the remains that you can see today. In its day, the structure was not a palace in the traditional sense; the Minoans used it as a religious center and administrative headquarters.

Guided excursion to Spinalonga Island
Travel to Elounda and board a boat for a short scenic cruise to Spinalonga Island. With an expert local guide, admire the island's Venetian-influenced architecture and its famous archaeological fortress. Towards the end of the 16th century, the Venetians, as part of their great fortification works to defend Crete, built one of the most important bastion-type seaward fortresses of the Mediterranean on Spinalonga Island. At one point, the island was an isolated community for the quarantining and treatment of people suffering from Hansen's disease. Spinalonga was one of the last leprosy colonies in Europe; it closed in 1957.

Enjoy lunch with a cheese tasting
Return to Elounda to enjoy lunch and sample locally made cheese crafted from generations-old recipes using fresh ingredients.

Travel by night ferry to Athens
Travel overnight by ferry from Heraklion to Athens, enjoying the journey across the Aegean Sea as you sail toward Greece's historic capital by morning.

Day 11: Athens • Delphi

Arrive in Athens
Arrive back in Athens in the morning after your overnight ferry, ready to begin the next day of your Greek adventure.

Guided excursion to Delphi
Greeks believed Delphi to be the center of the world, and a site that originally belonged to Mother Earth. As you explore the sacred hills with a local guide, ponder the mysteries of what lies in your future, as did Greece's ancient military leaders, who left gifts for the Oracle in hopes of good fortune in battle. Then visit the Temple of Apollo where, according to legend, the gods communicated with mortals. Conclude with a stop at the Delphi Museum, whose collection boasts many artifacts dating back to 550 B.C., reminiscent of ancient Greece's mythical past.

Optional excursion: Greek evening
Tonight, experience Greece's unique and colorful culture during an evening of traditional entertainment and cuisine. Enjoy an authentic meal composed of typical dishes while watching an enthralling dance performance. Witness the fancy footwork and twirling bravado of traditional Greek dancing while musicians perform on bouzoukis, stringed instruments unique to Greece. Experience firsthand this thrilling element of Greek culture!

Day 12: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport for your return flight
Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.com/bc.

The easiest ways to

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Enroll by phone
800-665-5364

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Two Education Circle
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My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.

–CHARLOTTE, PARENT OF TRAVELER

Tour review

THE WORLD LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

For over 50 years EF has been working toward one global mission: *Opening the World Through Education*. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and global competence. What's more:

– **We always offer the lowest prices** so more students can travel.

– **We're fully accredited, just like your school,** so you can earn credit while on tour.

– **All of our educational tours feature experiential learning activities** and visits to the best sites.

– **We're completely committed to your safety.** We have more than 600 schools and offices in over 50 countries around the world, so local EF staff members can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.

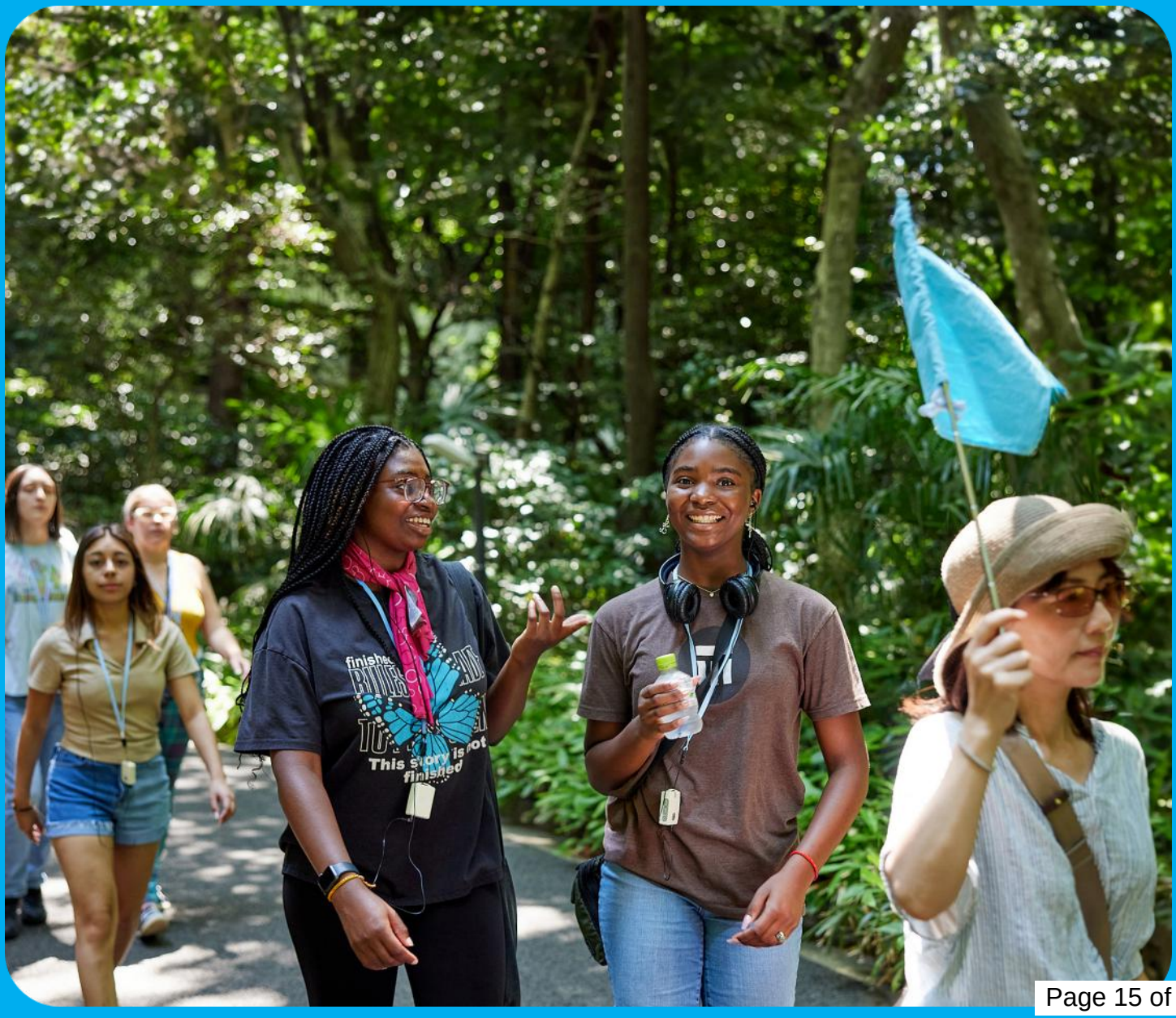
– **Your full-time Tour Director is with your group** every step of the way on tour, providing insight about your destinations as well as great local tips.

Education First

G7PC

EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Global Travel Program Proposal



Your partner in travel-based learning



Our mission

We're educators, just like you. And we're dedicated to helping students become more future ready.

EF stands for Education First. For over 60 years, we've worked in service of our mission, *Opening the World Through Education*, to help learners of all ages overcome barriers of culture, language, and geography to increase global understanding. We partner with educators to provide innovative, immersive programs that prepare students to succeed in college, in their careers, and throughout their adult lives. Here's how we'll collaborate with your school to create meaningful learning experiences.

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This proposal is property of EF Education First and the educator/school for which it was intended. Distributing, copying, and/or sharing it are prohibited. The proposal, including pricing, is valid for the educator, tour, and date(s) specifically mentioned herein. For additions, subtractions, or modifications, please contact your EF Tour Consultant.

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Learning outcomes

It’s our goal to put “education first” in every single tour. That’s why we carefully design our itineraries to complement your teaching, offering students hands-on experiences that deepen their understanding, build essential skills, and inspire them to apply their learning in meaningful ways.

Our method

We enhance what you teach with relevant experiences outside the classroom.

Our proven travel-based learning method safely takes students out of their comfort zones and helps them understand more about themselves and the world around them. It sparks a true journey of self-discovery, empowering them to take action and make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

Our programs

We design every EF program with a curriculum of immersive, hands-on learning that builds essential skills.

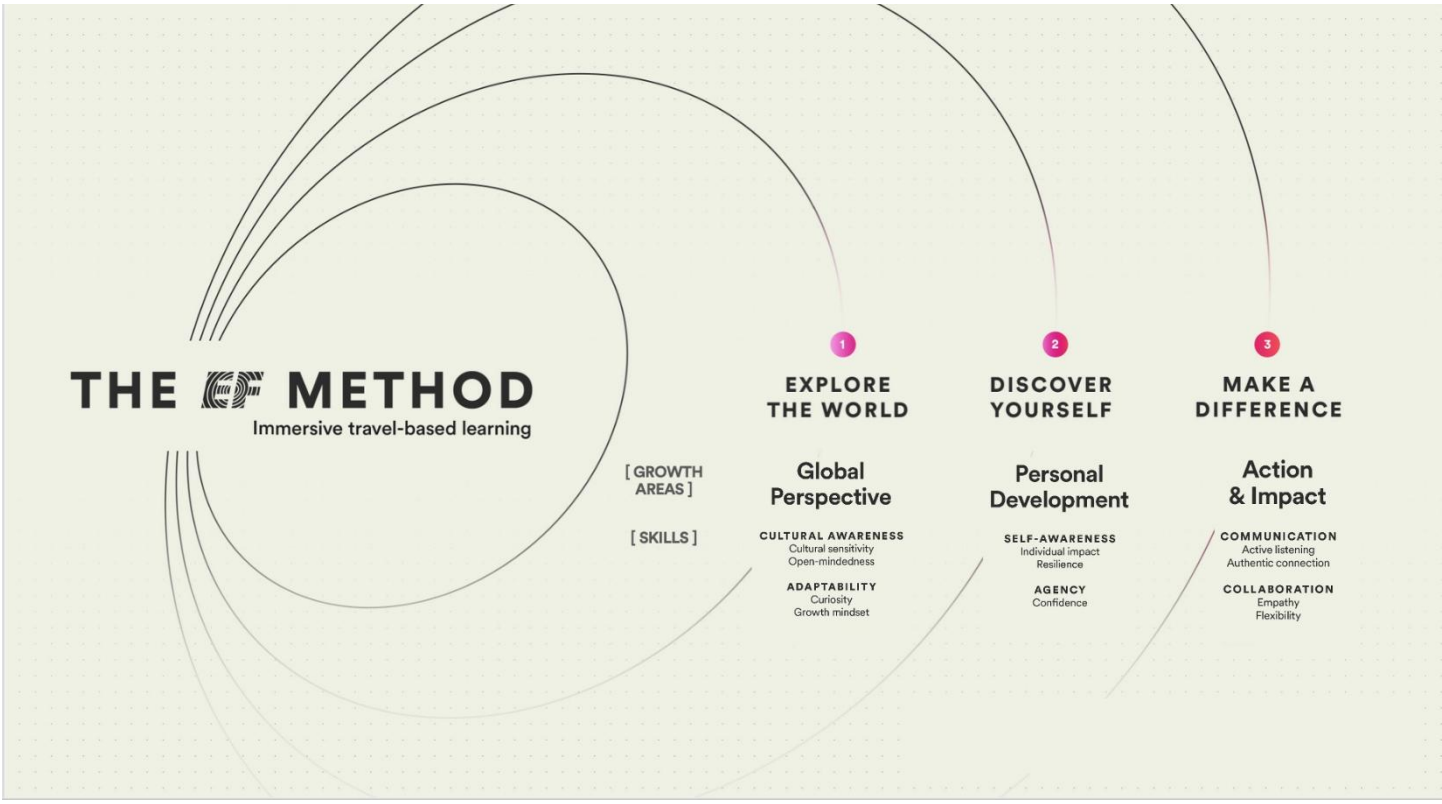
EF learning journeys offer incredible growth opportunities. Through professionally guided travel, authentic cultural exchange, experiential learning, and independent discovery, students develop critical skills they’ll carry with them through the rest of their lives.



Learning outcomes

Continued

EF students build essential skills in these key growth areas:



Explore the World

Students will gain a global perspective & gain skills in:

- Cultural awareness: Experiencing different contexts fosters cross-cultural knowledge and skills, encouraging open-mindedness.
- Adaptability: Navigating unfamiliar environments teaches you how to adjust to new situations, overcome challenges, and thrive in diverse settings. This helps build curiosity and develop a growth mindset.

Discover Themselves

Students will encounter personal development & gain skills in:

- Self-awareness: Building meaningful connections with others helps reveal your own biases and beliefs, fostering mindset shifts and strengthening resilience.
- Agency: Knowing yourself builds confidence and helps you decide who you want to be and the mark you want to make—empowering you to become a stronger advocate for your dreams.

Make a Difference

Students will grow in action & impact and gain skills in:

- Communication: You connect with others more deeply through active listening, authentic connection, empathy, and appreciation—then share your own point of view.
- Collaboration: You develop the interpersonal skills to thrive in multicultural teams—embracing empathy and flexibility to discover better solutions, take action, and create meaningful impact.

Academic credit & professional learning

We provide opportunities for students to earn academic credit and for educators to pursue professional development, supplementing their travel experiences with real-world educational achievements.

EF is an accredited institution

Like all our tours, EF's academic courses are built around the EF Method: immersive travel-based learning that helps students and educators learn more about the world, themselves, and the impact they can make. Students can also develop the essential skills that colleges and employers value most. EF is accredited by the same prestigious organizations who accredit the schools we work with across the country.

Academic credit for students

Every EF tour includes opportunities to enhance the educational experience by earning academic credit. Immersive travel combined with academic coursework is a powerful way for students to build their resumes, stand out on college applications, and even get a jumpstart on undergraduate-level college credits—at a fraction of the normal cost!

- Students in grades 6-12 can earn 1 high school elective credit through an online course before, during and after travel (included in the cost of tour!)
- Students in grades 6-12 can earn the EF | Nobel Prize Museum Global Citizen Certificate. (included in the cost of tour!)
- Students in grades 9–12 can earn 3.0 undergraduate credits, along with the confidence that comes with taking a college course, by completing a series of assignments and a final research project with our partner, Southern New Hampshire University—all for just $550.

Professional learning for educators

EF offers educators unique professional learning opportunities, including graduate-level college courses at a fraction of the typical cost, flexible professional learning hours, and much more.

- Group Leaders can earn 25 professional learning hours by participating in the seminars and scheduled activities on an EF training tour. 10 hours can also be earned on a Virtual Training Tour.
- Group Leaders can earn 45 professional learning hours by completing EF's in-house course. This includes pre-tour research and coursework.
- Group Leaders can earn 3 or 6 graduate-level credits ($550/$900) upon the completion of a 16-week, online course, "Leading Global Discussions," with Southern New Hampshire University the year after their tour.
- Group Leaders going on an EF Leadership Summit can earn 15 professional learning hours by simply participating in the Professional Learning Track at Summit.
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To learn more about EF's educational philosophy, visit eftours.com/education

Building equitable travel programs

One tour can open up countless possibilities for a group of students. A sustainable, multi-tour travel program extends those possibilities to even more students—year after year. It also promotes greater equity by giving families time to fund travel and by offering options that cater to different interests.

A multi-tour program could include:

2027
London, Paris & Rome (Summer)
Japan: Land of the Rising Sun (Summer)

2028
Belize: Conservation from Ridge to Reef (Spring)
Greece & Italy (Summer)
Culture & Service in Thailand (Summer)

2029
Costa Rican Explorer (Spring)
Language Immersion through Spain (Summer)
Marine Conservation in the Dominican Republic (Summer)

Travel programs in your region

Here are the other districts in your region that have embraced travel-based learning opportunities. Read on to discover how you can help the students in your community access these same life-changing experiences.

Edwardsville HS, Litchfield HS, Alton HS, Coolidge Jr. HS, Triad MS, Highland HS, Triad HS, & more!

Managing cost & payments

We believe in the life-changing power of educational travel and want as many students as possible to be able to experience it. With flexible payment options, fundraising tools, and scholarships, we aim to make these transformative experiences more widely accessible.

Automatic Payment Plan

Our recommended payment plan allows travelers to break their tour fee into manageable installments. Since most tours are planned well in advance, travelers can enroll for only $95 and then spread the tour cost over an extended period—often up to 18 months or two years—with the final payment due 30 days before departure. Families make payments directly to EF, with no payments going through the school.



Fundraising pages

Each student receives their own unique and customizable fundraising page. This easy-to-share page makes it simple for friends and family to contribute directly to the tour cost, with no fees whatsoever.

Global Citizen Scholarship Fund

Every year, EF Educational Tours awards $100,000 in scholarships to students across the country. Any student can apply for the Global Citizen Scholarship, which is granted on both a merit and needs basis.

Risk-Free Enrollment Period

New travelers who enroll can cancel for any reason up to 7 days after enrollment for a full refund of 100% of the money paid to EF. Travelers must pay in full or enroll in our Automatic Payment Plan at the time of program enrollment and must remain either paid in full or enrolled in our Automatic Payment Plan and in good financial standing at the time of cancellation to remain eligible. To be eligible, the traveler must enroll on a tour at least 110 days prior to the scheduled departure date.

Safety

Our travelers' safety is our top priority. With an extensive global presence, industry-leading experience, and close relationships with U.S. and international authorities, that's a statement we can back up with confidence. We ensure that every situation is managed with the utmost care.

Worldwide presence

EF's global presence is truly unmatched. We have staff on the ground 365 days a year in over 50 countries around the world. And we don't just work in those countries—we call them home. Better yet, EF has team members in nearly every one of our tour destinations, providing local knowledge and ensuring the safety of our groups. This presence allows us to support travelers wherever and whenever they need us.

24/7 emergency support

In the event that anything on tour goes wrong, EF staff are always available to help. Your Tour Director serves as your group's constant companion and first point of contact in an emergency. Our fully trained support teams are also on call 24/7, ready to assist teachers with any issues and provide the necessary resources to get things back on track. Finally our Safety and Incident Response Team—comprised of industry experts, healthcare experts, and even former FBI personnel—is ready to spring into action 365 days a year.



Safety

Continued

Your school's team

These EF staff are fully committed to your school's travel program and the safety of every student.

OPERATIONS SAFETY & INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

This team is strategically based in our Boston, Panama, and Zurich offices to accommodate all time zones. Available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, they are trained to react quickly if travelers need help. The team uses a combination of extensive training, simulations, incident response planning, and experience to manage emergencies. They also facilitate additional support for groups on tour, solve operational issues, arrange assistance from outside specialists, and liaise with local and international authorities as needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES & SUPPORT TEAM

Our support team is also available 24/7 to help resolve any issue, from a missed flight or a lost passport to more serious on-tour incidents. They're also the ones facilitating communication between travelers and families in the event of an emergency at home. The team is made up of highly trained and dedicated EF staff in our Boston and Denver offices who are equipped to solve problems and answer questions that may come up, even outside of regular business hours.

TOUR DIRECTOR

Tour Directors are assigned exclusively to each tour for the duration of the trip. They meet your group at the airport and stay with them until their departure home. All Tour Directors undergo a background check as permissible by local law every two years and are required to participate in ongoing EF safety trainings.

They're the first point of contact in an emergency and provide safety information to the travelers in their group. Tour Directors assist Group Leaders with hotel check-ins, coordinate meals, facilitate excursions with local guides, and much more. They're culturally connected and expertly trained to support impactful learning experiences.

EF TRAVEL TEAM

This team—comprised of a Tour Consultant and an EF Experience Specialist—is your school's main point of contact at EF. The Tour Consultant serves as your itinerary expert and is devoted to making sure your students get the most out of their travel experience. They partner with your school on everything from finding the perfect tour and enrolling travelers to developing long-term programs for your district and community. The EF Experience Specialist handles the finer details that make your experience with EF seamless. They work directly with Group Leaders (your teachers) right up until the moment of departure, ensuring everything goes smoothly.

TRAVELER SUPPORT

Our team of Travel Support Specialists are readily available to walk families through insurance inquiries, payment plans, food allergy issues, and any other topics that arise.

CHAPERONES

For every six travelers who enroll on a school's tour, the group is eligible to bring along a chaperone for free (with the first spot reserved for the Group Leader). This creates a 6:1 student-to-chaperone ratio, and allows chaperones to assist Group Leaders in supervising students.

Protection for travelers, schools & districts

We understand that unpredictable situations can happen, whether on tour or before departure. That's why we offer a range of protections to make sure travelers, schools, and districts are covered no matter what. We do everything we can to make planning for the future as flexible as possible.

General liability insurance

All Group Leaders, schools, and districts who travel with EF are added as additional insureds under our $50 million General Liability Policy, whether or not the tour is considered a school event. EF's liability coverage is primary and non-contributory for covered third-party claims. The policy helps safeguard Group Leaders and their schools for covered third-party claims related to bodily injury or property damage, which includes providing a legal defense and covering legal costs for such claims. In addition, all travelers are required to sign EF's Release and Agreement which includes a release of liability of their Group Leader, school, and school board.



Peace of Mind Program

Provided to all groups

When your school decides to travel with EF, we want you to feel secure in that decision. This benefit, built into every EF program, gives groups the flexibility to change their tour dates or destination. It can be enacted up to 59 days prior to departure for any reason, including terrorism or other world events.

Protection for travelers, schools & districts

Continued

Protection for individual travelers

While on tour, travelers can help protect their investment and themselves from certain unexpected events and expenses with our Global Travel Protection and Global Travel Protection Plus plans.

GLOBAL TRAVEL PROTECTION
Available to all travelers
Designed specifically with EF travelers in mind, this plan provides both pre-departure and post-departure benefits, including medical expense coverage that may apply on tour and tour cancellation coverage for specified reasons.

GLOBAL TRAVEL PROTECTION PLUS
Available to all travelers
This plan provides all of the benefits included in the Global Travel Protection Plan as well as expanded cancellation protection.

Background checks for adult travelers

EF requires all adults (20 years and older) to pass a criminal background check before travelling on our student tours. This provides a safer tour experience for all and aligns with the process many school districts have for adults who volunteer or chaperone school activities. Conducted by a leading professional provider, the secure background check only flags individuals who could present a risk to student travelers while on tour.

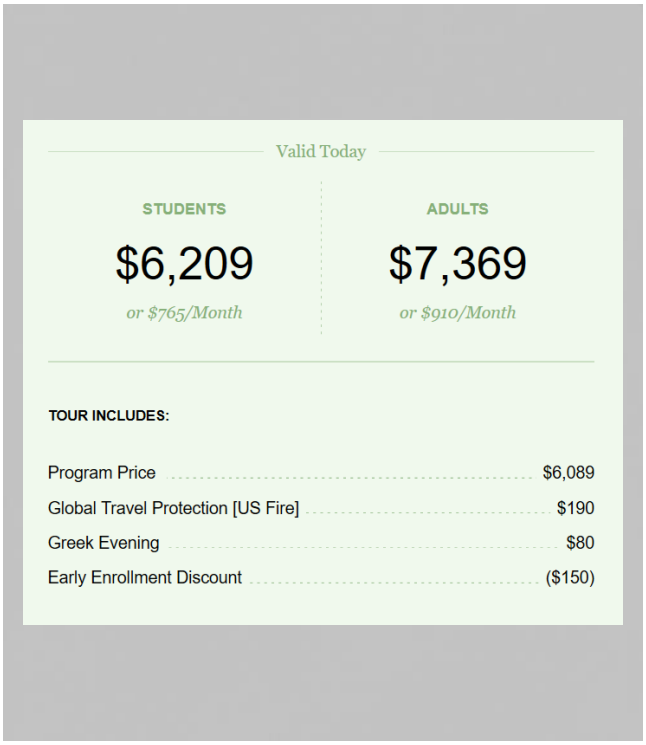


Travel logistics

Proposed tour for Hannah Fishburn
in Summer 2027: Rome, Athens, and the Greek Isles (see attached itinerary)

Price of this tour
The tour program price covers a wide range of services that ensure students have an incredible travel experience. It includes all the planning and preparation that leads up to departure, travel and accommodations, and logistical support once the group reaches their destination.

Full, flexible travel window: July 10-27, 2027
Requested travel dates: July 13-24, 2027



Travel logistics

Continued

Hotels

Every hotel we partner with must meet our strict standards for safety, quality, and cleanliness. Hotels are thoroughly vetted by our team and they're regularly inspected to ensure they continue to meet these standards. It's important to note that hotels abroad may have different amenities than travelers may be accustomed to in the United States. Below are expectations & examples of hotels travelers may encounter at your proposed destination:

Athens, Greece

Groups stay 20 minutes to an hour outside the center of Athens in areas such as Calamos, Rafina, Elefsina, Anavyssos, Marousi, Piraeus, and Glyfada, or near the Isthmus of Corinth. Hotels that are further from the city often have the added advantage of being closer to the beach. Accommodations meet the standard you'd expect from a typical European hotel, which means that rooms come with private bathrooms and feature multiple single or shared double beds. Rooms may be on the smaller side without AC, and those with AC often have less powerful systems than ones found in the U.S. Hotels may not have elevator access.

Blue Sea Hotel
http://www.bluesea.com.gr
Address: 49, Themistokleous str. Alimos 174 55, Greece

Santorini, Greece

Groups stay in areas around the island, such as Perissa. The island is relatively small, so most activities are within a 30–40-minute drive from the hotel. Some hotels may have pools, but it's common for them to have seasonal closures or be unheated. Accommodations meet the standard you'd expect from a typical European hotel, which means that rooms come with private bathrooms and feature multiple single or shared double beds. Rooms may be on the smaller side without AC, and those with AC often have less powerful systems than ones found in the U.S. Hotels may not have elevator access.

Iliada Odysseas Hotel
https://www.iliadasantorini.gr/
Address: Perivolos, Santorini 847 03, Greece

Rome, Italy

Groups stay an hour or so from the center of Rome, near one of the airports or in areas such as Monterotondo, Nemi, Castel Gandolfo, Pomezia, Fiano Romano, Civitavecchia, and Torre Angela. Rome is a bustling and expansive city, so hotels are selected to minimize travel time between the previous and following stops on your itinerary and can be located in commercial or residential areas. Accommodations meet the standard you'd expect from a typical European hotel, which means that rooms come with private bathrooms and feature multiple single or shared double beds. Rooms may also be on the smaller side without AC, and hotels may not have elevator access.

Villa Valente
https://www.villavalente.com/
Address: Via Alberto Tulli, 71, 00123 Roma RM, Italy

B&B Fiumicino
https://www.hotel-bb.com/en/hotel/roma-fiumicino-aeroporto-fiera-1
Address: Via Giulio Romano, 79, 00054 Fiumicino RM, Italy

Meals

Meals are chosen to provide a more immersive cultural experience, giving students the chance to sample traditional cuisine and experience local dining customs. Below are examples of dishes travelers may encounter at your proposed destination:

Italy: Sample Meals

Tomato bruschetta, cannellini beans with garlic and sage, lasagna, gelato. Spaghetti with pesto, pork loin with spinach and potatoes, fruit salad

Greece: Sample Meals

Spinach pie, moussaka, rice pudding. Greek salad, chicken with oven-baked pasta, walnut pie.

On tour, breakfast is typically simple and served at the hotel, either plated or buffet-style. Lunch usually gives travelers the opportunity to explore the local cuisine on their own. Dinners will be a mix of familiar dishes and local specialties, all served from a pre-set group menu.

Next steps

Suggested enrollment meeting date:
November 2026

My name is Erin Scheibel and I'm the dedicated Tour Consultant for Granite City HS. I'll be working closely with your Group Leader, Hannah Fishburn, every step of the way to make sure your student tour is perfectly planned. If you have any questions or need additional information, don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Erin Scheibel
Tour Consultant
erin.scheibel@ef.com

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Student travel strengthens our mission of making future graduates into global citizens. After their travels, our students return more well-rounded and success-driven because they now understand the connections between what is taught in the classroom and what is needed in the global market.

Mitch S., Administrator

